



## News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge  
19th Judicial Circuit  
Lake County  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Waukegan, Illinois

### LAKE COUNTY TO ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT ESTABLISHED BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Chief Judge John T. Phillips, himself an Air Force veteran, announced that various partners of the Lake County legal community will again work together with the Library of Congress on its Veterans' History Project. On Veterans Day morning, Tuesday, November 11, 2014, war veterans are invited to come to the Lake County courthouse in Waukegan to have their oral histories recorded by official court reporters who will produce transcripts of their interviews. The typed transcripts will be archived at the Library of Congress. Lake County's participation in this program in 2012 and 2013 were moving and inspirational experiences for all who attended. It is anticipated that Allen J. Lynch, Medal of Honor recipient for his bravery in the Vietnam War, will be the guest of honor at the event.

The Library of Congress sponsored project collects first-hand accounts of veterans from World War II (1939-1946), the Korean War (1950-1955), the Vietnam War (1961-1975), the Persian Gulf War (1990-1995) and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present), as well as personal items such as photographs, diaries, letters, etc. of the veterans, if they so choose.

Civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (war industry workers, such as "Rosie the Riveter," USO workers, civilian flight instructors and pilots, medical personnel, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

The program will also use volunteers from the Office of the State's Attorney, the Public Defender's Office and members of the Lake County Bar Association to conduct the oral interviews of the war veterans and the civilians that supported the war effort. Judge Phillips is seeking volunteers from each group to assist in this important effort.

Chief Judge Phillips, an Air Force veteran, said, "Northern Illinois is the home to thousands of war veterans and those civilians that helped them. War veterans are often hesitant to talk about their own experiences because of a sense of humility but they are often the last witnesses to the sacrifice and bravery of others who did not survive the war or have since passed. The events they witnessed firsthand and their memories of their comrades in arms need to be preserved."

Court reporter Colleen Eitermann, along with Vernita Allen-Williams and Deborah Cohen-Rojas, will be coordinating the court reporters' support of this important project. "The official court reporters covering Lake County's third Veterans History Project event are again very excited to be a part of this effort. The first-hand accounts will be archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and to serve as an inspiration for generations to come, making accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war," said Ms. Eitermann.

The following judges who are veterans, Michael Betar (USMC), Michael Fusz (USN) and John Scully (USN), as well as Assistant States Attorney Ken LaRue (USN) (when he returns from extended active duty in Afghanistan in the early fall), will be contacting various organizations and individual veterans in Northern Illinois to advise them of the project and to seek their help in contacting other war veterans and civilians that aided in the war efforts. They will also be recruiting Lake County lawyers, assistant state's attorneys and assistant public defenders to interview the war veterans and civilians.

Carol Cord, the administrative assistant to Chief Judge Phillips, who can be reached at 847-377-3771, will be the main contact for this effort. She is the mother of two war veterans of the recent conflicts in the Middle East. She will be coordinating the volunteers, the veterans and courthouse personnel. Any veteran interested in being interviewed or anyone interested in volunteering to assist in this project should contact Ms. Cord by Monday, October 6.

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